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LABOR SUPPLY - HOP HARVEST

Willamette Valley, Oregon and Yakima Valley, Washington
1941 Season

Report by George D. Renan
Labor Relations Division
Farm Security Administration
Region XI

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Practically all of the hops produced in the United States are grown in the three Pacific Coast States. In 1940, Washington produced 30% and Oregon 47% of the Coast production. Idaho has a very small hop acreage, the greater part, 125 acres, at Wilder, Idaho. Most of the Oregon hops are grown in the Willamette Valley, with its greatest concentration, 4800 acres, in the Independence district. Nearly all of the Washington hops are grown on 6800 acres in the Yakima Valley.

Picking in the Willamette and Yakima Valleys begins in the middle of August, and is over by the end of September, with the peak from September 1, to September 20.

The Oregon-Washington hop harvest requires a greater number of workers, than any other harvest in the Northwest.

The problem of meeting this heavy demand for pickers has been chronic. In 1937, Governor Martin of Oregon, and Mr. John Cooter of the Farm Placement Service, broadcast appeals for pickers to help save the crop. The Yakima Valley growers have imported thousands of pickers to harvest their hops. Brewery wagons in St. Paul, Minnesota, have been known to carry ads for hop pickers for the Yakima Valley.

The only new element in this chronic situation this year, lies in the intensity of the furore over the "labor shortage".

Labor Sources and Recruitment.

The nature of the hop plants is probably the most important selective factor determining the sources and recruitment of labor.

You do not have to crawl on your hands and knees, nor climb trees, nor lift heavy weights, and neither do you have to pick for color, or size, or degree of ripeness. If you want company, or want to be close to your family, all can gather around one vine, and pick and chat away. The clusters are all in the more or less same state of ripeness, so that you can cut the vine, and if you so desire you can sit on a basket or camp chair or carry the vines to grandma sitting on her stool, so that she does not have to reach up, or bend down to reach the clusters. In fact the only serious problem involved in picking hops consists in keeping too many stems and leaves out of your basket.

From the above, it can be seen that women folks, the young, the aged, and the infirm are suited for hop picking. In fact many of the pickers in the hop yards are unsuited for any other agricultural labor. Family groups -- at times all three generations -- predominate in the hop harvest. The growers prefer the families, as they are much easier to handle, and labor trouble can more easily be avoided.

The Willamette Valley is the most heavily populated section of Oregon. The bulk of the pickers in the Valley, are families from the towns and cities in Western Oregon. A large per cent of these families work in no other crop, and in the main are low-income people. As the season occurs immediately before the opening of school, and in part coincides with the start of the school year, many pickers go to the fields to earn enough money for school clothes and supplies. A smaller per cent of the families go out for a sort of semi-vacation, where they can earn some side money during their outing. Hop picking is a tradition in the Willamette Valley towns and cities. Probably less than 25% of the hop pickers in the Valley can be classified as out-of-the-state migrants. Therefore, the Willamette Valley hop harvest is less dependent on migrant farm labor than any other major row crop in the Northwest.

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The picture differs in the Yakima Valley. There is a greater percentage of migratory farm families among the hop workers. Also, a large number of Indians pick hops in the Yakima Valley. These Indians come from all over the Northwest including Montana and British Columbia. The Yakima Valley is on the east side of the Cascade Mountains and about 150 miles from the population centers in Western Washington. Its relative isolation from these population centers accounts for the smaller per cent of Washington families in the hop harvest. One reason for the large per cent of migrant families picking hops is the fact that these families are able to go from hops to the apple harvest in the Yakima, Okanogan, and Wenatchee areas.

In order to obtain as many local families as possible for the harvest, the Oregon-Washington growers have been making the "outing", "vacation" angles the main themes of their publicity. Independence starts its season with a Hop Festival with the avowed purpose of attracting and amusing the hop pickers. In both states, the recreational facilities of the growers' camps are stressed, and all the larger hop camps have boxing rings and recreational halls. At the end of the season many of the growers throw huge parties, with plenty of ice cream, beer, and hot dogs.

This year with the phrase "labor shortage" on everyone's lips, the growers outdid themselves, and all but "called out the marines" to save the hop crop.

The campaign started early. The first hop picking ad appeared in the newspapers on June 29, a full six weeks prior to the start of the harvest. The ads steadily increased in number, and by the start of the harvest, the Portland Sunday Oregonian carried 23 hop picker ads. In July, many of the growers, as in years past, notified their steady pickers by mail of the date of the start of the harvest and asked the families to register. The smaller growers rely particularly on this method of recruitment, and it was fairly successful this year.

Independence adopted the slogan, "Save our Crops: Pick our Hops", which was stenciled on the store windows. The slogan was also printed on small placards and placed on cars advertising the Independence harvest, wherever the cars went. The growers outside of the Independence area also had small placards, calling for hop pickers. These were placed in the communities near the yards.

During the last half of the Oregon harvest, the hue and cry for pickers intensified. The Governor went on the air calling for pickers. Efforts were made to delay school openings, and on August 28, the State Employment Service, began to run EMERGENCY ads (paid for by the growers). These EMERGENCY ads ran until September 10.

The newspapers on their own account publicized the "shortage", and published stories describing the high wages to be earned picking hops. The radio carried spot announcements for additional pickers, and nearly every local news broadcast included a story on the "shortage" and a call for pickers. A sound car, roamed the streets calling for pickers. Trucks in Salem and Portland, transported the pickers to the fields. WPA projects, not classified as defense projects, were closed down. On September 8, Mr. Morton Tompkins, Overseer of the State Grange, Mr. Harlan Libby, President of the Farmers Union, accompanied by Emory Worth, Farm Placement Supervisor, went to the Labor Temple to secure pickers from among those men waiting assignment to industrial jobs. On September 9, all men in hangouts were given orders by the Portland Police Department to find work in fields and orchards, or face arrest on charges of vagrancy. It became patriotic to pick hops. The Service Clubs went to bat and their members were urged to save the crop. On Sunday, September 7, hundreds of cars were mobilized and auto caravans poured out of Portland on their way to the prune, bean, cucumber, and hop fields.

Officially the State School Board, authorized the local boards to act as they saw fit on the question of keeping the schools closed. Unofficially, the state school head, Mr. Rex Putnam, urged the local school boards to delay their openings. The Portland schools opened according to schedule. Many of the schools were delayed from one to three weeks. Parents were promised that children who went to the fields, would be given special attention to enable them to catch up with their respective classes, if school had meantime opened.

In Yakima, the problem was tackled in a more organized way. A Citizens' Committee, called the Community Harvest Emergency Committee was organized. The Land-Use Planning Sub-Committee on Farm Labor in Yakima County, had a number of meetings to act on the hop picking situation. At the early meetings the growers reported that despite widespread advertising, they had relatively few answers to their ads, and they began to talk in terms of emergency. They posed the question of keeping the schools closed, not so much with the idea of using the children as pickers, but as a means of keeping the mothers in the fields, who otherwise would have to remain home. They also posed the question of using CCC boys, and at later meetings made plans to contact the army at Fort Lewis, to secure furloughed soldiers to pick hops. The Employment Service members of the Committee, suggested that wage rates be raised, and Mr. Cooter, Regional Farm Placement Supervisor, suggested that the pickers be paid by the hour.

The growers at subsequent meetings decided that the rates should not be increased as they felt that increasing the rate would not increase the production of the pickers. They argued "that the pickers were not interested in the amount of money earned up to a certain amount, but were more interested in earning just enough to get by on with shorter hours". They also decided that they would get less hops picked if they paid by the hour, and couldn't see how the hourly rate could be applied to the children and older pickers. It was finally decided not to mention the 2¢ per pound rate (including a $\frac{1}{4}$ ¢ bonus) in their advertising campaign.

As in the case of Oregon, all channels of publicity were tapped to attract pickers to the yards, and the same patriotic appeals were made. Trucks were sent to Seattle to obtain pickers, and as in past years, growers transported Indians by trucks from all over the Northwest. Many CCC boys in one fashion or another were secured for the harvest. The efforts to obtain furloughed army men met with only a small degree of success. The problem with the soldiers and the CCC boys was the fact that they lacked bedding and cooking utensils. Some efforts were made to obtain board for the soldiers.

As in Oregon, the local school boards had local autonomy on the matter of keeping the schools closed. There was considerable resistance against school closures, and in Toppenish, one of the hop centers, the patrons voted 357 to 230 against a proposal to close the schools for two weeks, despite a letter from the hop growers explaining their situation, which each patron received with the ballot. A compromise was effected for a one-week closure.

Meanwhile, the LU Sub-Committee, kept tackling the problem and the growers even raised the possibility of advertising in the Midwest for pickers - an old Yakima habit - - . On September 3, the LU committee met and decided to proclaim an emergency. Some of the Employment Service officials present, disagreed with the decision. A committee was appointed to formulate plans to publicize the emergency, and to turn the plans over to the Employment Service publicity men who would be in Yakima the following day. The story was due to break on Friday morning, September 5. It was suggested that weather conditions be stressed as one cause of the emergency. It was also suggested that the Emergency Planning Committee discuss their plans with Mr. Grant, the State Farm Placement Supervisor, who would be in Yakima, the following day, and by using his knowledge as to conditions in other parts of the state, decide whether to declare the emergency as a local problem, or a state problem. Plans were all set to close the stores and release the clerks, etc., for the hop yards, when the State Employment Service decided that they would like to get more complete information on the subject. On September 5, they checked upon 40% of the hop acreage - and discovered that over 30% of the acreage had already been picked. They estimated that a really serious emergency did not exist. The stores were not closed.

Labor Supply

There were undoubtedly less pickers in the Independence district than in former years. This decrease was probably caused by the fact that many of the family heads of the hop picking families had secured better paying jobs in defense work, and in industries stimulated by defense work. In most cases however, the

family members not engaged in defense work left the wage-earner in town, and went to the hop yards.

According to the "Independence Enterprise", there were a fair number of pickers for the early hops.

The Independence district in the past usually had about 15,000 pickers for the peak of the season, beginning September 1. This year there had been a particularly heavy rainfall over the Labor Day week-end, that damaged a considerable portion of the bean and prune crop, releasing a large number of bean and prune pickers for the hop harvest. The rain also stopped logging operations, as many of the logging roads of the smaller outfits were washed out. The cessation of logging stopped the small mills, which depended on their logs from the small logging outfits. Many of these idle loggers and sawmill hands went to the hop yards while their normal work was at a standstill.

At the height of the "shortage", September 8, a check was made of the number of pickers on 30% of the Independence acreage. On the basis of this 30% sample there were about 10,000 pickers in the Independence yards. The cabins and tents in the largest yards were filled, and these yards were turning away pickers, who had no housing accommodations of their own. All the field bosses contacted stated that while they had less pickers in their crews, they were confident that the full crop would be harvested. Many of these field bosses had worked for years in their respective yards, and they were well acquainted with the situation. In fact during this period, when the cry of "shortage" was at its highest, many of the growers were afraid that too many hops would be picked, and a tonnage much in excess of the quota would result. The number of ads in the Oregonian took a sharp drop to four ads on September 5, and never again approached the daily average of fifteen ads that had been appearing in the previous weeks. The above facts supported the idea that there was no "shortage" of hop pickers in the Independence district. This viewpoint was later substantiated in the yield per acre and production figures that are quoted below.

There have been various estimates of the number of hop pickers needed for the Yakima Valley. Most of the growers set the figure at seven pickers per acre. For example, the Yakima Chief Ranch, with some 700 acres, advertised for 5,000 pickers. The number of pickers required for Yakima's 6800 acres according to this estimate would be about 50,000 pickers. (The population of Yakima County is 99,000). The State Employment Service had estimated the need as 30,000 pickers, or about four pickers per acre. The above figures do not take the machines into consideration, at that time an uncertain quantity.

The Yakima picking started slowly and gathered tempo as the pickers in the corn, pear, and peach harvests completed their work in these harvests and went into the hop fields. On September 5, at the height of the "shortage", the Employment Service made a check on over 40% of the Yakima acreage, and estimated on the basis of their sample that about 20,000 pickers were in the field, and that 32% of the acreage had already been picked. Taking into consideration the fact that the hop picking machines were taking care of about 1700

family members not engaged in defense work and the wagon-train in town, and went to the hop fields.

According to the "Independence Enterprise", there were a fair number of pickers for the early season.

The Independence district in the past usually had about 15,000 pickers for the peak of the season, beginning September 15th. Year there had been a particularly heavy rainfall over the Labor Day weekend, that damaged a considerable portion of the bean and grain crops, releasing a large number of beans and giving pickers for the hop harvest. The rain also stopped logging operations, so many of the logging roads of the small mills, which depended on that logs from the small logging outfits. Many of these idle loggers and sawmill hands went to the hop yards while their normal work was at a standstill.

As the height of the "harvest", September 8, a check was made of the number of pickers on 30% of the Independence acreage. On the basis of this 30% sample there were about 10,000 pickers in the Independence yards. The other and lands in the largest yards were filled, and those yards were turning many pickers, who had no housing accommodations of their own. All in all, the Independence district stated that while they had less pickers in their yards, they were confident that the full crop would be harvested. Many of these field hands had worked for years in their respective yards, and they were well acquainted with the situation. In fact during this period, when the city of "Independence" was at its highest, many of the growers were afraid that too many hops would be picked, and a shortage which in excess of the quota would result. The number of hops in the Oregonian took a sharp dip, to 10th and in September 2, and never again approached the daily average of fifteen and that had been appearing in the previous weeks. The above facts supported the idea that there was no "shortage" of hop pickers in the Independence district. This viewpoint was later substantiated in the field by the and production figures that are given below.

There have been various estimates of the number of hop pickers needed for the Yakima Valley. Most of the growers set the figure at seven pickers per acre. For example, the Yakima Chief Ranch, with 1,000 acres, advertised for 7,000 pickers. The number of pickers required for Yakima's 6,800 acres according to this estimate would be about 50,000 pickers. (The population of Yakima County is 39,000.) The State Employment Service had estimated the need as 30,000 pickers, or about four pickers per acre. The above figures do not take the machines into consideration; at that time an hourly quantity.

The Yakima picking started slowly and continued to pick up as the pickers in the corn, grain and peach harvest completed their work in these enterprises and went into the hop fields. On September 2, at the height of the "harvest", the Employment Service made a check on over 40% of the Yakima acreage, and estimated on the basis of their sample that about 20,000 pickers were in the field. That 32% of the acreage had already been picked. Taking into consideration the fact that the hop picking machines were selling for about \$100

acres, $\frac{1}{4}$ of the acreage, then these 20,000 pickers were working on the other 5100 acres. On September 16, another check made by the WSES indicated that 80% of the acreage was picked. On September 22, over 90% of the hops were harvested. The yields per acre and production figures corroborated the estimate of the WSES that the crop would be picked without resorting to extraordinary measures.

In both Yakima and Independence, the crop was successfully picked with almost 40% less pickers than the figures estimated by the growers.

In Idaho, from 400 to 600 pickers successfully harvested the 125 acres in Wilder, Idaho.

Production and Yield

On September 1, 1941, the USDA estimated that the Pacific Coast production for 1941 would be 43 million pounds of dry hops. As of September 15, the USDA Marketing Service estimated that the Coast production would be somewhat over 1% lower than the estimated production. The 1% difference was attributed to the heavier than average dry-out -- 2 - 3 pounds per cwt., caused by the heavy rains. The heavier than average dry-out decreased the yield of dry hops by about 10%. The indicated production for Oregon and Washington is 1.7% below the September 1, estimate for these two states. In view of the 10% heavier dry-out, the tonnage of picked green hops was larger than the estimated tonnage.

In Washington, the indicated yield dried per acre for 1941 is 110% of the average yield for the 1930-39 period, Oregon has an indicated 1941 yield of 95% of the average 1930-39 yield per acre. Therefore, in view of the heavier dry-out, both states had a higher yield per acre of green hops in 1941 than the green hop yield per acre for the 1930-39 period.

This year the Federal Marketing Agreement for the Pacific Coast states has been set by the Secretary of Agriculture at $40\frac{1}{2}$ million pounds, which represents 95% of the indicated production for 1941. The quota for 1940 was 86% of the production of $42\frac{1}{2}$ million pounds.

The figures above on Oregon, are for the whole state. All the hops have not as yet been weighed in the Independence district, but indications point to the fact that the Independence acreage will have a greater yield per acre of dry hops than last year, despite the heavier dry-out and despite the fact that 163 acres were unpicked because of mold and the fear of having too large a surplus. An example may be seen in the 400 acres of the Wigrich ranch, where even though about five acres were unpicked, and with the same acreage as 1940, the yield was 40 more bales than last year. A bale weighs 200 lbs. dry weight.

The average yield in Yakima is about 10 bales to the acre. At 30¢ a pound, the price at which many of the growers had contracted to sell, an acre of hops would gross \$600. The larger growers will be able to get 35¢ a pound, a gross yield of \$700 per acre. The net yield per acre in Yakima will run over \$200 per acre.

The Independence yield is about six bales per acre, will gross about \$360 per acre at 30¢ and \$420 per acre at 35¢. The net yield is over \$150 per acre.

Picking Machines

Last year there were two picking machines in Yakima. This year there were thirty-eight.

Thirty-three of the machines are portables and operate in the field, pulled by a tractor and manned by a crew of 8 - 10 men for each machine. The portables averaged slightly less than one 10-hour shift a day. The machines, taking into consideration a small supplementary cleaning crew, had 15 men doing the work of about 100 pickers. The portables on the larger ranches, because of their more efficient mechanics, were able to operate their machines an average of about $1\frac{1}{2}$ shifts per day.

One grower had 7 machines, one had 5, and 17 other growers had one or two machines each.

There were five stationary-type machines operated in Yakima. One grower had 4 of these.

The stationary machines are kept beneath a shed and trucks hauled the vines to them. A crew of 50 to 55 men were used with each of these. The machines work an average of about one 10-hour shift per day.

Both types of machines need an average of about 15 men to do the work of 100 pickers. This year they picked about $\frac{1}{4}$ the Yakima acreage.

The portable machines cost \$5,000. Cleaning machines, which supplement the work of the portable machines cost \$700. Stationary machines cost \$12,000 to \$20,000. At 1941 wage rates, the machines will save enough money per shift to pay for themselves in 35 ten-hour shifts.

The portable machine has a potential maximum production in two ten-hour shifts of 24,000 pounds per day of green hops. This production figure represents the equivalent production of 2.4 acres of hand picked hops, and would require 240 pickers to equal the production of the machine. The stationary machines have a potential maximum production in two ten-hour shifts of 64,000 lbs. of green hops a day. This is approximately equal to the production of about 640 pickers per day and the equivalent to the yield from 6.4 acres.

One grower in Independence, Oregon, E. Clement Horst, has two stationary machines and six portables. The portables were shipped from Sacramento, California at the completion of the harvest in that area. These machines were less efficient than the machines in Yakima, because the Independence hops shatter more easily. Different methods of twining and training may increase the efficiency of the Independence machines.

Next year, different methods of growing the Yakima crop will be tried with the idea of increasing the efficiency of the machines.

Present reports indicate that 40 more portable machines will be brought into the Yakima Valley. Of course defense priorities may prevent that goal being realized. Horst is building two more additions to his stationary machine

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The stationary machines are kept beneath a shed and trucks hauled the vines to them. A crew of 20 to 25 men were used with each of these. The machines work an average of 10 to 12 hours a day. The types of machines used an average of about 10 men to do the work of 100 pickers. This year they picked about 1/2 the Yakima average.

The portable machines cost \$2,000. Cleaning machines, which are being used for the work of about 100 pickers, which are being used for the work of about 100 pickers.

The portable machine has a potential maximum production in two ten-hour shifts of 24,000 pounds per day of green hops. This production figure represents 240 pickers to equal the production of the machine. The stationary machines have a potential maximum production in two ten-hour shifts of 12,000 lbs. of pickers per day and the equivalent to the yield from 6.4 acres.

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in Independence, Oregon. Some of the other growers in Independence are considering getting machines for next year.

If Yakima obtains the additional 40 machines next year, the total of 78 machines, if worked at the same efficiency as the machines this year, will pick almost 60% of the Yakima acreage. If a 50% increase in efficiency can be effected, the machines will pick almost 90% of the acreage. If the machines can be worked on two ten-hour shifts, the machines will pick 100% of the Yakima acreage with ease, and will require only 4,500 men instead of 30,000 pickers.

The Yakima growers are reluctant to admit the savings in manpower and money, effected by the machines and they have a tendency to exaggerate the harm done to the hops. One grower estimated that his stationary machine wasted about 25% of the hops. He based his estimate on the amount of hops gathered around the machines on several occasions, but admits that his estimate is pretty much of a guess. No control tests have been made with either type of machine. The figures on the indicated yields indicate that there is no appreciable difference in yields per acre between the two methods of picking.

Earnings and Rates

The Independence, Oregon rates started at \$1.75 per 100 lbs., including a bonus. The rates went up to \$2 straight, and a few days later, September 7, the rate increased to \$2.25 per 100 lbs., and remained at that price for the rest of the season. Some of the yards paid \$1.75 per 100 lbs. and permitted stripping. This system was preferred by many of the pickers. \$2.50 was the rate for picking down-hops, and \$2.75, the rate for red-hops (sun-burned).

The average picker in Independence picked about 110 lbs., of hops in a ten-hour day, \$2.50 for a ten-hour day.

In Yakima, the starting price was \$2.00 per 100 lbs., including a $\frac{1}{4}$ ¢ bonus. The growers, despite their assertions at the LU meetings, that any increase in price would cut down production, soon raised their rates to \$3 per 100 lbs., including a $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ bonus. Before the season was over, many of the growers were paying \$3 straight. The average picker in Yakima, picked about 90 lbs., in a ten-hour day, earning about \$2.50 in ten hours.

In view of the fact that the pickers could only work 75% of the time, because of rain and inefficient management, e. g., shortage of sacks, the average weekly earnings per hop picker were slightly over \$11.

A great deal of publicity was given to the stories of high wages earned in the hop yards, particularly in Oregon. The following story, originating in Salem, and published in the Portland Journal on September 10, was also sent over the U. P. wire. "In some fields hop growers are paying the highest prices for picking in 25 years. Many pickers were reported to be earning as much as \$8.50 a day although between \$4 and \$7.50 is a conservative estimate on the average wage of pickers." (Our emphasis) The head of the temporary OSES Office in Independence was responsible for the "facts" in that story. He is relatively new with the OSES, having been with them about six months.

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\$4.00 a day means an average pick of 177 pounds, and if the average picker earned this conservative sum of \$4 and picked 177 lbs. a day, then an average of 4500 pickers could pick the 4800 acres in the Independence district in 25 days. Anyone around Independence could easily tell that there were more than 4500 pickers in that area during the harvest.

Another story in the Portland Journal, by John M. Richardson on September 24, states that, "At the going price of \$2.25 a 100 pounds picked, the workers have been earning wages which rival those earned in the most exacting defense industries." (Our emphasis) The story goes on to tell how a family of seven, earned \$400 since September 1, and another family of two earned \$100.60 in one week of picking, and how another family of eight earned \$186.50 in one week. There are indications that some of the OSES officials have been spreading these stories of high earnings. An example may be seen in a story in the Magazine Section of the Sunday Oregonian, September 27, called "We Learn About Hops". (published after the completion of the harvest). The writer, Harriet Hennessy, states that, "Besides, the Oregon State Employment Service, when we called for information and directions, said a slow, inexperienced hop picker could make at least \$4 a day." (Our emphasis)

The pickers who came out on Sundays, the business men and merchants, picked very few hops. The regular pickers and field bosses were rather contemptuous of the business men who came out later in the day. Of course the business men may have thought they picked a lot of hops, but if they would have picked enough hops for a weigh-up, they would have discovered that "the hops weigh just a little bit more than a shadow" and that in actuality not many hops were picked. The above story "We Learn About Hops", goes into detail explaining how the party of three worked hard for seven hours, and after the weigh-up discovered that they had picked 36 pounds each, earning 72¢ or 10¢ an hour.

The same story holds true for the Yakima business men who went to the hop fields in Yakima. For example, 30 members of the Active Club of Yakima, promised to pick hops with their families. The Club picked 1,000 lbs., the next Sunday, and assuming that only 25 members and their families were present the average per family was 40 pounds.

Accommodations and Conditions

Cabins and tents were provided in practically all of the hop yards. Some of the cabins and tent houses had bunks. Sufficient wood was provided. The pickers could get all the straw they wanted. The prices at the commissaries and restaurants were fair. The bigger ranches had day nurseries for children, which on the whole were poorly attended. The companies supplied milk for the nurseries, and in some cases church groups conducted the nurseries and provided the food. The accommodations on the whole in the larger yards, were fairly good, and in some aspects were superior to the FSA Mobile Units. For example, the toilet facilities in some of the company camps were well screened, and were kept meticulously clean. In general, however, the growers' camps were not as good as the Mobile Units. The smaller camps as a rule had rather unsatisfactory accommodations.

\$4.00 a day means an average pick of 175 pounds, and if the average picker earned this conservative sum he and picked 175 lbs. a day, then an average of 1,000 pickers would pick the 175,000 acres in the Independence district in 25 days. Anyone around Independence would easily tell that there were more than 1,000 pickers in that area during the harvest.

Another story in the Portland Journal, by John H. Richardson on September 24, states that "At the closing price of \$2.25 a 100 pounds picked, the pickers have been earning wages which rival those earned in the most favorable balance in the district. The story goes on to tell how a family of seven, earned \$400 since September 1, and another family of two earned \$100.00 in one week of picking, and how another family of eight earned \$125.00 in one week. There are indications that some of the U.S. officials have been spreading these stories of high earnings. An example may be seen in a story in the Magazine Section of the Sunday Oregonian, September 27, called 'The Harvest About Hope'. (published after the completion of the harvest). The writer, Herbert Hennessey, states that, 'According to the Oregon State Agricultural Service, when we called for information and statistics, said a slow, steady increase in pickers could make at least \$4 a day.' (Our emphasis)

The pickers who came out on Sundays, the business men and merchants picked very few bags. The regular pickers and field hands were rather contemptuous of the business men who came out later in the day. Of course the business men may have thought they picked a lot of bags, but if they would have picked enough bags for a wagon-load, they would have discovered that "the bags weigh a little bit more than a stone" and that in actuality not many bags were picked. The above story "We Learn About Hope", goes into detail explaining how the party of three worked hard for seven hours, and after the wagon-load discovered that they had picked 35 pounds each, earning 75¢ or 10¢ an hour.

The same story holds true for the Yakima business men who went to the Hop Fields in Yakima. For example, 30 members of the Active Club of Yakima, pretended to pick bags with their families. The Club picked 1,000 lbs., the next Sunday, and assuming that only 25 members and their families were present the average per family was 40 pounds.

Accommodations and Conditions

Cabins and tents were provided in practically all of the hop yards. Some of the cabins and tents had bunk beds. Sufficient wood was provided. The pickers could get all the straw they wanted. The prices at the commissaries and restaurants were fair. The bigger ranches had day nurseries for children, and on the whole were poorly attended. The companies supplied milk for the nurseries, and in some cases church groups conducted the nurseries and provided the food. The accommodations on the whole in the larger yards, were fairly good, and in some aspects were superior to the WAAC units. For example, the toilet facilities in some of the company camps were well equipped, and were kept exceptionally clean. In general, however, the growers' camps were not as good as the WAAC units. The smaller camps as a rule had rather unsatisfactory accommodations.

Pickers received little supervision in the fields. The experienced pickers did not bother to pick hop by hop, but were careful not to get large leaves in their baskets. Some of the yards had rather inefficient weigh-up systems. The pickers were particularly suspicious about the scales. They are accustomed to see a State seal of approval on scales, and the growers would help things along if they would get their scales checked by the State. A few spontaneous strikes over rates were called, none of which lasted more than a few hours.

The FSA operated a 50-family Mobile Camp Unit at Independence, Oregon, during the 1941 season. The standard camp at Dayton, Oregon, also served hop pickers in the Willamette Valley. The FSA Mobile Camp at Toppenish, Washington, served hop pickers during the early part of the season. The standard camps at Union Gap and at Granger, Washington were filled nearly to capacity during hop harvest. These two camps, with total accommodations for 379 families, had a population of approximately 1000 people during the month of September.

Conclusions:

1. The 1941 harvest was 100% successful from the standpoint of saving the marketable crop. The crop was harvested in substantially the same period as last year.
2. The hop picking machines are a success. It would not be surprising to see complete mechanization of the harvest.
3. Because of the large percentage of children, women, and aged among the pickers, the hop harvest will be least affected among Northwest crops by the continued upswing in industrial employment.
4. Usual earnings were about \$11.00 per week per picker. The rate was about \$2.25 per cwt. The usual performance was 100 lbs. picked per ten-hour day.
5. An observation of the hop harvesting situation leads to the conclusion that greater efficiency in the use of the 30,000 workers assembled could be obtained by:
 - a. paying higher rates for picking, thereby
 - b. getting higher type pickers, and
 - c. cutting down labor turnover,
 - d. better management in the yards, in provision of sacks, baskets, and weigh-in service,
 - e. eliminating, as far as possible, the "vacation" atmosphere;
 - f. a reconsideration of methods used, including possibly transporting vines to pickers' sheds.
6. In general, the basis for the intensive propaganda campaign to obtain pickers was a fear of labor shortage rather than reality. A more objective attitude on the part of the growers would win the respect of the public and the pickers, so that if a real emergency did occur all efforts would be cheerfully given to meet the problem.

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